

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
OF
MAIDSTONE.



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH

Maidstone Rural Sanitary District,

FOR THE YEAR

1900,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE HEALTH OF THE Maidstone Rural Sanitary District In 1900.

The Population of the Maidstone Rural District was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General to be **16,301** at the middle of 1900, showing an increase of 41 since the middle of 1899.

The number of registered births amounted to 386, consisting of 206 of males and 180 of females, and giving a Birth-rate of **23·6** per 1,000 of population as compared with 25·3 in 1899, and 23·4 in 1898.

The registered deaths numbered 299, and included 170 of males and 129 of females. Of these 79 occurred at the Union Workhouse, 52 of which were those of non-residents. The total deaths also include those of 6 non-resident hawkers and hop-pickers, who died within the District.

The Death-rate was **14·7** per 1,000 of population, as compared with 14·0 in the previous year and 15·4 in 1898.

Of the total deaths 21 were caused by one or other of the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz., 2 by Scarlet Fever, 6 by Diphtheria, 1 by Enteric Fever, 3 by Measles, 4 by Whooping-cough, and 5 by Diarrhoea. One death from Diphtheria was that of the infant son of a non-resident hop-picker.

The Zymotic Death-rate was **1·2** per 1,000 of population as compared with 1·1 in 1899 and 1·3 in 1898.

The Infant Mortality, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered Births was **106**, as against 118 in the previous year, and 142 in 1898.

During the year 1900 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales was 28·9 (the lowest on record); the general death-rate 18·3 and the zymotic death-rate 2·00 per 1,000 of population.

The rate of mortality amongst infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 154.

It is seen from the above that the Vital Statistics are of a decidedly satisfactory character.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

It may be mentioned that the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, has by the Infectious Disease (Notification) Extension Act, 1899 (which came into operation on January 1st, 1900) been made compulsory in every Urban, Rural, and Port Sanitary District in England and Wales.

Under these Acts, now together cited as the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, 86 cases were reported, as compared with 126 in the previous year.

They consisted of 40 cases of Scarlet Fever, 33 of Diphtheria, 7 of Enteric Fever, and 6 of Erysipelas.

Scarlet Fever.—The district was free from the disease during the months of April, May, and June, and the remaining months contributed to the total as follows:—

January	4 cases
February	4 ,,
March	2 ,,
July	7 ,,
August.....	12 ,,
September	1 case
October	3 cases
November	4 ,,
December.....	3 ,,
Total.....	40 cases

They were reported from Bearsted 1 case, Boughton Monchelsea 20 cases, Hunton 1, Linton 3, Loose 1, Marden 1, Nettlestead 1, Staplehurst 10, and Yalding 2 cases.

Two cases only ended fatally, that of a boy aged 15 years at Hunton in February, and that of an infant at Loose in August.

The Scarlet Fever death-rate was 0.1 per 1,000 of population, and the case-mortality 5 per cent.

The cases and deaths occurred at the following age-periods :—

1—5 Years.	5—15 Years.	15—25 Years.	25—65 Years.
10	24	5	1 = 40 cases.
1		1	= 2 deaths.

Diphtheria.—Thirty-three cases were notified, as compared with 26 in 1899, viz., 6 in February, 3 in March, 1 in May, 1 in June, 2 in July, 8 in September, 5 in October, and 7 in December.

The greatest numbers occurred at Marden (9) and at Staplehurst (8 cases). East Farleigh and Loose contributed 5 each, Barming and Yalding 2 cases each, and one case was reported in each of the parishes of Boughton Monchelsea and West Farleigh. The cases at Marden were widely scattered throughout the parish.

Six out of the 8 cases at Staplehurst occurred at the same cottage, among the children of a labourer, and here the disease undoubtedly spread from throat to throat.

The person first attacked in this family was employed in a hop-garden, where it was subsequently ascertained that several of the hop-pickers had suffered from somewhat severe sore throats, in all probability mild cases of diphtheria.

The cases and deaths occurred at the following age-periods :—

0—1 Years.	1—5 Years.	5—15 Years.	15—25 Years.	25—65 Years.
1	4	18	5	5 = 33 cases.
	1	5		= 6 deaths.

The six deaths occurred as follows :—

In February, 2, at Staplehurst, both aged 5 years.

In April, 1, at Staplehurst, aged 7 years.

In September, 1, at Loose, aged 9 years.

In September, 1, at West Farleigh, the infant boy of a non-resident hop-picker, who died before he could be removed to the Isolation Hospital.

In November, 1, at Yalding, aged 5 years.

The Diphtheria death-rate was 0.3 per 1,000 of population, and the case-mortality 18.1 per cent.

Enteric Fever cases fell from 9 in 1899 to 7 in 1900, with one death. They were notified one in each of the months of January, April, June and December, and three in November.

Two were notified from each of the parishes of Barming, Marden and Yalding, and one from Otham.

The cases and death occurred at the following age-periods :—

1—5 Years.	5—15 Years.	15—25 Years.	25—65 Years.
1	2	1	3 = 7 cases.
		1	= 1 death.

Of the two cases at Barming the first was notified on November 11th (Hall Place Cottages) and the second on December 6th (Holly Cottages).

One of the houses was supplied by well water, which had been examined a short time previous to the occurrence of the case, and was shown to be of good quality, and no further cases arose among those supplied from this source.

The case at Otham was that of a nurse child from London.

At a row of cottages at Langhorne Lane, Yalding, where a severe case of Typhoid Fever occurred, the well water supplying the cottages was of inferior quality, and I recommended the public supply to be laid on.

Erysipelas.—The district was free from this disease during January, February, April, June, July, August, November and December, whilst one case occurred in each of the months of March and May, and September and October contributed two cases each.

They occurred 2 at Boughton Monchelsea, 1 at Bearsted, 1 at Loose, 1 at Marden, and 1 at Teston.

One death was caused by the disease at Boughton Monchelsea, the patient being over 65 years of age.

The cases and death occurred at the following age-periods :—

15—25 Years.	25—65 Years.	65 Years and upwards.
1	4	1 = 6 cases.
		1 = 1 death.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Measles was responsible for 3 deaths during the year (all of children under 4 years of age), 1 in January at Hunton, and 2 in February at Loose and Marden.

Whooping-cough caused 4 deaths, all of infants under 1 year of age, viz., 3 at Yalding, in January (2) and April (1); and 1 at Nettlestead in July.

Diarrhoea.—Five deaths were registered, 2 at Nettlestead in July and September; and 3 at Yalding, in August (1) and September (2). The ages varied from 5 weeks to 43 years.

Influenza.—Sixteen deaths were caused.

With the exception of 2, all were adults and 9 were over 60 years of age.

ISOLATION.

Three cases of infectious disease were admitted into the Temporary Isolation Hospital at Coxheath in September—2 cases of Diphtheria and 1 of Erysipelas.

The Diphtheria cases were children living at Loose, who could not be properly isolated at home, and the case of Erysipelas was a severe one occurring in an adult female (non-resident) hop-picker at Teston.

All three made good recoveries.

INSPECTIONS.

A considerable number of visits of inspection were made by me during the year, having reference to infectious disease, nuisances, and other matters.

In January I inspected two houses at Nettlestead, which were in an unsatisfactory condition as to drainage; this has now been remedied.

I have also on three occasions inspected Edinburgh Cottages, Barming, where improvements in the sanitary arrangements and water supply have been carried out after considerable delay.

In April the condition of a cottage at Otham was brought to my notice, and the necessary action taken.

In November I visited the Schools at Laddingford, Yalding, with reference to cases of Diphtheria which had occurred among the scholars. The fact that the School is considerably over-crowded had been evident for some time, and the School Committee

have now taken the matter in hand. The water supply was also insufficient and unsatisfactory, and I communicated with the Chairman of the School Committee on the matter.

I inspected the Temporary Isolation Hospital on three occasions, one before and twice during its occupation.

No cases of overcrowding have come to my knowledge, and it has not been found necessary to take any special action with regard to Bakehouses, Dairies, or Slaughterhouses.

The hop-picking passed off very well, and few cases of disease occurred among the pickers.

WATER SUPPLY.

I have inspected a considerable number of wells during the year, notably at East Farleigh, Marden, Hunton, and Yalding in which the quality of the water on examination has been found unsatisfactory. The inferiority of the quality of a great many wells is caused not only by being placed in a bad position, where a possibility exists for contamination by adjacent cesspools, manure heaps, &c., but also by bad construction of the well itself.

The majority of the wells are lined with loose brickwork only, which finishes off at the ground level, and the covers are of such a kind as to allow of surface washings and any kind of surface pollution gaining access.

If the brickwork were at the upper part laid in cement and the well cemented, concreted, or puddled on the outside to a depth of 6 or 8ft., the brickwork carried well above ground level to shut out surface washings, and an efficient cover provided, a great deal of improvement would be effected in the quality of the water of many wells.

It is also desirable that pumps should, as far as possible, supersede draw-wells, as the water has much more chance of becoming contaminated by the constant opening of the lid and the introduction of a bucket than by the use of a pump, to say nothing of the chance of children throwing things into the wells when the lid is removed.

The Water Supply of the Maidstone Water Company has been carefully watched during the year, and reports of the analyses received and made by me have been placed before your Council.

Copies of 47 chemical analyses of the Ewell supply made by Dr. Pye Oliver on behalf of the Urban District Council of Maidstone were forwarded to me. These were uniformly satisfactory, with the following exceptions :—

On March 27th the total and permanent hardness was reported to be higher than usual, but became normal in this respect on April 3rd.

On April 17th the nitrates were higher than usual.

On April 25th nitrates were present, and there was a slight smell.

On September 5th and December 29th the nitrates were higher than usual.

Copies of 12 bacteriological analyses made by Dr. Newman for the County Asylum Committee were on the whole satisfactory. In the early part of the year the water of January, March, April and May contained rather fewer organisms than that of February and June.

Of the water taken on November 1st it was stated "that the number of bacteria per cubic centimetre in this sample is considerably higher than usual."

The absence of the *bacillus typhosus* and *coli* was noted in all cases.

Of 19 bacteriological analyses made by myself during the year, 12 samples were taken at Barming Village (from a scullery tap at Mr. Small's, adjoining the Bull Inn, Barming), 5 from the injection tank, Ewell Manor, and 2 from a tap off the rising main at East Farleigh (Miss Day's).

No bacteria *coli* or other organisms suggestive of contamination were found, neither were any *coli-like* organisms isolated during the year, as was the case in water which I examined in September and October, 1899, and in December, 1898.

The actual number of organisms per cubic centimetre was very high in the water taken at Barming Village in January. The numbers showed much fluctuation later on in the year, ending by a rise in October and a rapid fall at the end of the year.

The largest number of organisms were found in the injection tank water in January, April and May; in the Barming Village water in January, April, June and October.

All the water samples taken by me were collected between the 14th and 22nd of each month.

The average of the 19 analyses gave 473 bacteria per cubic centimetre, as compared with 412 per cubic centimetre obtained from an average of 14 analyses made during 1899.

Although these averages for the two years correspond very closely, the number of organisms found in some of the individual samples varied considerably.

Periodical reports of chemical analyses of the Mid Kent Water have been received, and in every case the report has been of a most satisfactory character.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

It was found necessary to advise the closure of the following Schools :—

Board Schools Staplehurst.—January 2nd to January 29th, on account of Scarlet Fever.

Board Schools, East Farleigh.—January 1st to January 15th, on account of Measles.

Laddingford School, Yalding.—January 8th to February 12th, on account of Measles.

West Farleigh Schools.—January 15th to January 22nd, on account of Measles.

Barming Schools.—January 18th to February 8th, on account of Measles.

The Schools, Linton.—February 8th to March 2nd, on account of Measles.

National Schools, Bearsted —April 26th to May 14th, on account of Mumps.

Board Schools, Boughton Monchelsea.—August 15th to August 24th, on account of Scarlet Fever.

It will be noticed that the Statistical Tables at the end of this Report are somewhat different from those of former years. The four new Tables have been issued by the Local Government Board in place of the two headed "A" and "B" which were until recently in use, with a view to facilitate record of a minimum amount of statistical information of the sort desired by the Board.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

Table 1.—For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.	Deaths under One Year of Age.	Deaths at all Ages.			Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.
				Number.	Rate.*	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.			
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1898.	16,215	380	23·4	55	142	291	17·0	62	42
1899.	16,260	413	25·3	59	118	305	18·7	80	76
Averages for Years 1898-1899	16,237	396	24·3	57	130	298	17·8	71	59
1900.	16,301	386	23·6	41	106	299	18·3	79	58

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 34,997.

At Census of 1891 :—Total Population at all ages, 15,907. Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,275. Average Number of Persons per house, 4.

Table 2.

Names of Localities.	Maidstone Rural.	Yalding Sub-Registered District.	Loose Sub-Registered District.					
			Deaths under 1 year.		Deaths at all ages.		Deaths under 1 year.	
			Births Registered.		Deaths at all ages.		Deaths under 1 year.	
			Population estimated to middle of each year.		Population estimated to middle of each year.		Population estimated to middle of each year.	
			a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.
1900	16301	386	241	41	7449	185	115	27
							8852	201
								126
								14

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or group of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district : and blocks, 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in the district excluded. (See note on Table 1 as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident").

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities, according to addresses of the deceased.

Table 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1900.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At Ages†—Years.						Yalding.			Loose.		
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Yalding.	Loose.	Yalding.	Loose.	Yalding.
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Membranous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—
*												
Totals	86	1	15	44	12	13	1	39
												47
												3

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables 2 and 4. State the name of the Isolation Hospital, if any, used by the sick of the district. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district.

* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.
† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

Temporary Hospital, Coxheath, Linton, Sub-registered District, Loose.

Table 4.—Causes of, and ages at Death during the Year 1900.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).	Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under I.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 upwards.		
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	2
Scarlet fever	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
Whooping-cough ..	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	4	—
Diphtheria and membranous croup	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	4	1
Croup	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Fever. { Typhus	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Enteric	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Other continued....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic influenza	16	1	—	—	1	6	8	6	10
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (See notes below) ..	5	2	1	—	—	2	—	5	—
Enteritis. (See notes below) ..	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	3	1
Puerperal fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Other septic diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis	17	—	1	—	2	14	—	11	6
Other tubercular disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	8	—	—	—	—	5	3	2	4
Bronchitis	25	5	8	1	—	1	10	16	9
Pneumonia	21	2	4	1	—	8	6	8	13
Pleurisy.....	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Other diseases of respiratory organs.....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Alcoholism {	7	—	—	—	—	4	3	2	5
Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Venereal diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Heart diseases ..	21	—	—	4	1	3	13	10	11
Accidents	11	—	2	—	—	8	1	4	7
Suicides	8	—	—	—	2	4	2	3	5
All other causes..	74	23	2	1	1	11	36	31	43
All causes....	241	41	24	15	9	69	83	115	126
									79

NOTES.—(a) The deaths of residents occurring beyond the limits of the district are to be included in this table, and deaths of non-residents occurring in the district are to be excluded. See note on Table 1 as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents."

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars, and, in addition, to be classified under "Public Institutions."

(c) Under the heading of "Diarrhoea" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from—Epidemic enteritis; Zymotic enteritis; Epidemic diarrhoea; Summer diarrhoea; Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhoea; Choleraic diarrhoea, cholera, cholera nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhoea."

Deaths from diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4, attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

Maidstone Rural District Council.

Work carried out by Mr. Killick, Year ending Dec. 31st, 1900.

Number of Blocks of Hopper Houses inspected	...	...	350
„ Hopper Houses Inspected...	...	...	3,546
„ Costers' Barrows inspected, about...	...	...	257
„ Nuisances discovered, &c. ...	...	...	75
„ Blocks of Hoppers' Cooking Houses	...	...	275
„ Tents inspected	...	...	216
„ Revisits made	...	...	77

GENERAL INSPECTION WORK:—

Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	89
Defective Drainage ...	...	...	..	...	37
Foul Piggeries	...	...	...	...	4
Foul Privies ...	...	...	...	...	53
Dairy inspections	...	...	...	...	33

